

HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ZONING

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TECHNICAL STAFF REPORT

Planning Board Meeting of February 21, 2013

Case No./Petitioner:

SDP-93-131/Redding Rental (Dan Redding)

Subject:

SDP-93-131, Redding Rental, Sieling Industrial Center, Section 1, Area 1, Parcel AA-1, 6695 Dobbin Road, Tax Map 36, Grid 23, Parcel 424, Sixth Election District of Howard County, Maryland. A retail, service, industrial and

restaurant center located in Columbia MD.

Request:

The request is for approval of a Red-Line Revision for SDP-93-131 for an adjustment to the 25-foot parking setback requirement to allow the addition of twenty (20) new parking spaces to encroach 18 feet into the 25-foot parking setback in accordance with Section 125.G.4 of the Howard County Zoning Regulations. The subject property is zoned "NT" (New Town) "Employment Center-Industrial", is part of the Sieling Industrial Center,

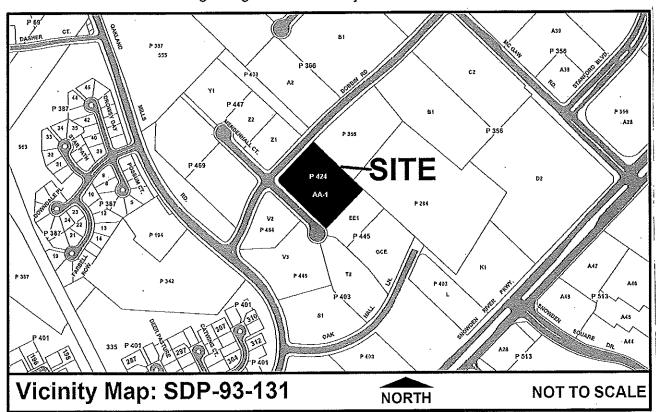
Section 1, Area 1 and is subject to FDP-117-A-II.

Location:

The subject parcel is located on the corner of Dobbin Road (north side) and Herrmann Drive (east side), approximately 620 feet north of Oakland Mills Road in Columbia, Maryland.

DPZ Recommendation:

Approval, subject to compliance with any comments from the Planning Board. No outstanding comments were received from reviewing agencies regarding this setback adjustment.



Vicinal Properties

- To the west is Dobbin Road
- To the east is Parcel (Lot) EE of the Sieling Industrial Center, zoned NT
- To the south is Herrmann Drive
- To the north is Lot E and Parcel 284, zoned NT

SITE DESCRIPTION:

The subject parcel is 3.65 acres in area and is improved with a one-story 25,689 square foot commercial/industrial building that occupies 16% of the parcel. This building provides commercial and industrial space for an equipment rental service, a dine-in restaurant, a furniture store, and a retail battery outlet. The subject parcel and surrounding parcels are zoned New Town – Employment Center-Industrial Land Use, per FDP-117-A-II and are improved with a blend of commercial uses, such as office, limited retail, restaurant and industrial uses. The area consists of low-rise office, retail and industrial-type buildings, fronting primarily along Dobbin Road and secondary streets where street trees align these roads providing a high quality streetscape. The subject property derives its vehicular access from Dobbin Road as well as from Herrmann Drive.

LEGAL NOTICE:

The subject property was properly posted with one (1) official Planning Board poster with the date, time and place of the Planning Board meeting for 15 days prior to this meeting. The poster was placed at the entrance to the site adjacent to Dobbin Road.

PROPOSAL:

The petitioner proposes an expansion to construct 20 additional parking spaces on the property. The proposed 20 parking spaces will be located in an existing grassed area that abuts the Dobbin Road right-of-way. The added parking (as shown on the attached "red-line" SDP) will increase the existing overall parking for the property from 81 spaces to 101 spaces. This increase will provide additional parking opportunities for patrons who do business at this location.

The proposed parking expansion addition will extend 18 feet into the 25-foot parking setback (towards Dobbin Road) and the "face of the curb" will be 7 feet from the Dobbin Road right-of-way line. A proposed retaining wall (2.5 feet maximum height) will be utilized to help stabilize the grade to accommodate the southern end of the proposed parking area.

The petitioner's request requires that the Planning Board approve a setback reduction to the 25 foot parking setback adjoining a public road right-of-way line specified by the FDP to 7 feet minimum. The Planning Board has the authority to grant the requested setback reduction in accordance with Section 125.G.4 of the Zoning Regulations.

FDP Development Criteria Requirements – This SDP Red-Line Revision is in compliance with all applicable requirements of FDP-117-A-II, except for the parking setback adjustment as follows:

Setback Requirements (Criteria Item 6):

Required - A 25 foot structure setback is required from any public street right-of-way and a 25 foot setback is required for parking areas from the public street right-of-way as approved on the site development plan by the Planning Board.

<u>Provided</u> - The proposed 20 parking spaces require approval by the Planning Board for a setback adjustment from 25 feet to 7 feet.

Permitted Land Uses (Criteria Item 7):

The existing building uses are in compliance.

Height Requirement (Criteria Item 8):

The existing building is in compliance with the 50-foot maximum height requirement.

Parking Requirement (Criteria Item 9):

5 parking spaces for each 1,000 square feet of commercial uses, including restaurants; 2 parking spaces per 1,000 square feet of office uses and 1 parking space for each 2 employees is required for all sites devoted to industrial uses. The total required parking spaces is 82 spaces. The total provided parking spaces per this Red-Line Revision is 101 spaces.

Lot Coverage (Criteria Item 12):

The existing lot coverage is 16% and is in compliance with the 50% maximum lot coverage requirement.

EVALUATION:

In accordance with Section 125.G.4.d of the Zoning Regulations, the Planning Board must evaluate the acceptability of the proposed setback based on the following criteria:

 The adjustment will not alter the character of the neighborhood, will not impair the use or development of the adjacent property, and will not be detrimental to the public welfare.

The subject lot is located within a commercial corridor where all of the immediate surrounding land uses consist of office, service, retail, restaurant and industrial uses. The petitioner proposes to landscape the perimeter edge, between the proposed twenty (20) parking spaces and the Dobbin Road right-of-way and such landscaping will provide

a visual buffer and enhance the Dobbin Road streetscape. The petitioner is proposing 60 evergreen shrubs (Yew variety) and 9 shade trees (Red Sunset Maple) that will serve as a visual buffer, thus mitigating the visual impact that the additional parking may have from Dobbin Road.

The following factors lend support to the petitioner's contention that the proposed parking addition will be compatible with its surroundings:

- Its location at the corner of Dobbin Road and Herrmann Drive will have minimal visual impact to adjacent property owners because the additional parking spaces will be buffered by a Type-E landscape buffer (1 shade tree per 40 feet; 1 shrub per 4 feet);
- There are other area businesses that have existing parking located in the front
 of their building and, therefore, this parking plan will not be out of character for
 the surrounding area;
- The curbed edge of the proposed parking addition will be 27 feet from the Dobbin Road paved roadway edge and will not be within the County's right-ofway;
- The proposed parking addition was approved by the Sieling Industrial Park Architectural Committee, and the approval letter dated September 10, 2012 is a part of the file for the record.

This parking addition will not alter the commercial/industrial character of this planned "Employment Center" and will not impair the use of the adjacent and surrounding developed properties. The parking addition is not detrimental to the public welfare, since the intended use is to provide additional parking for restaurant patrons that is located at this property. Furthermore, the petitioner must comply with the Sieling Industrial Park "conditions of approval", as outlined in their letter dated September 10, 2012 - an additional protective measure for ensuring that the proposed parking satisfies their concerns.

2. The adjustment is needed due to practical difficulties or unnecessary hardships which arise in complying strictly with the FDP and/or results in better design than would be allowed by strict compliance with the development criteria.

The proposed adjustment to the bulk requirement for the allowable setback encroachment for the parking addition will permit the petitioner to clear, grade and construct 20 additional parking spaces to address their parking needs due primarily to a popular restaurant that is experiencing a demand for additional parking. The proposed parking addition will be located where the entrance to and from the property currently exists and, therefore, this proposed parking addition shall sustain continuity with the surrounding parking lot. Secondly, strict adherence to the 25-foot parking setback requirements would create a hardship to the petitioner's ability to provide additional

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parking at a location that's most logical for this site (fronting the entrance to the restaurant and other tenants who occupy this building; the rental business is located near the rear of the property and has parking for its services). The petitioner will be adhering to land grading regulations and landscaping requirements for the parking expansion.

SRC ACTION:

The Subdivision Review Committee (SRC) determined this plan may be approved.

RECOMMENDATION:

Based on the above findings, the Department of Planning and Zoning recommends that the Planning Board approve the requested setback adjustment to allow a reduction to the 25 foot parking setback to 7 feet as requested by the petitioner.

The Red-Line Site Development Plan file is available for public review at the Public Service Counter of the Department of Planning and Zoning, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Marsha McLaughlin, Director

Department of Planning and Zoning



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